



## ***Is Your Property Tallow Tree Free?***

***Chinese tallow trees are infesting the Lowcountry and are transforming the woodlands. Tallow trees have overtaken the native vegetation on Parris Island, where workers with a federally-funded project are struggling to remove them. After considerable research on this invasive species, the Dataw Island Conservancy initiated a Tallow Tree Removal Program in the summer of 2014.***

### ***How did we get our Tallow Tree count?***

The Conservancy sent an email to the supporters to solicit volunteers for the Tallow Tree Removal Program. The Tallow Tree Terminators (TTT) work as teams to identify and mark tallow trees in a systematic manner. The process begins by notifying property owners that the TTT will soon be marking tallow trees in their neighborhood. The first notification is in writing as an email, or a letter, and we request that they respond by giving permission to enter their property for inspection. A couple of days before inspection, we call the property owner to let him or her know that we will soon be there. In addition, as the TTT team arrives at a home, they will ring the doorbell to introduce themselves before walking through the yard looking for tallow trees. As a voluntary program, the property owner can refuse to grant us permission and we will skip that lot. Based on our experience so far, property owners very rarely deny us entry, so that we are able to get almost complete cooperation in surveying the island for tallow trees.

***This is a voluntary program that relies on each and every property owner to become educated on the threat that tallow trees pose to the island's ecology, and to do their part. (The process for marking and mapping tallow trees and informing property owners who have tallow trees of their options will be described in a series of forthcoming articles and emails.) The success of this program depends heavily on the property owner's volition to remove any tallow trees that are found from their land. You can make a difference!***